CARING FOR A SPOUSE

Being a caregiver for a spouse who has atrial fibrillation (AFib) not caused by a heart valve problem can often be a challenge

For reducing the risk of a stroke in patients with AFib

• Learn about AFib, risk of stroke, and the signs of a stroke at PRADAXA.com. Understanding your spouse’s condition can help you in your role as a caregiver.

• Work together as a team and have an honest discussion about how AFib can put your spouse at 5 times greater risk of stroke.

• Make a list of the other health issues your spouse may have, and all medications (including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and supplements) he or she is taking.

• Download the Doctor Discussion Guide at PRADAXA.com and take it with you on your spouse’s next doctor visit. Ask the doctor about AFib not caused by a heart valve problem and the differences between PRADAXA and warfarin (also known as Coumadin® or Jantoven®) for reducing risk of stroke, and if PRADAXA is the right treatment choice for your spouse.

• Discuss getting help for your other needs, from house cleaning and making meals to shopping and home maintenance.

• Don’t go it alone. Reach out to other family members and caregiver organizations.

What is PRADAXA?
PRADAXA is a prescription blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body.
PRADAXA is used to:
• reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people who have a medical condition called atrial fibrillation not caused by a heart valve problem. With atrial fibrillation, part of the heart does not beat the way it should. This can lead to blood clots forming and increase your risk of a stroke.
• treat blood clots in the veins of your legs (deep vein thrombosis) or lungs (pulmonary embolism) and reduce the risk of them occurring again.
PRADAXA is not for use in people with artificial (prosthetic) heart valves.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT PRADAXA

For people taking PRADAXA for atrial fibrillation: Do not stop taking PRADAXA without talking to the doctor who prescribes it for you. Stopping PRADAXA increases your risk of having a stroke. PRADAXA may need to be stopped prior to surgery or a medical or dental procedure. Your doctor will tell you when you should stop taking PRADAXA and when you may start taking it again. If you have to stop taking PRADAXA, your doctor may prescribe another medicine to help prevent a blood clot from forming.

Please see additional Important Safety Information on next page.
Please visit PRADAXA.com for full Prescribing Information and Medication Guide.
PRADAXA can cause bleeding which can be serious and sometimes lead to death.
Don’t take PRADAXA if you:
• currently have abnormal bleeding;
• have ever had an allergic reaction to it;
• have had or plan to have a valve in your heart replaced
Your risk of bleeding with PRADAXA may be higher if you:
• are 75 years old or older
• have kidney problems
• have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or keeps coming back or you have a stomach ulcer
• take other medicines that increase your risk of bleeding, like aspirin products, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and blood thinners
• have kidney problems and take dronedarone (Multaq®) or ketoconazole tablets (Nizoral®)
Call your doctor or seek immediate medical care if you have any of the following signs or symptoms of bleeding:
• any unexpected, severe, or uncontrollable bleeding; or bleeding that lasts a long time
• unusual or unexpected bruising
• coughing up or vomiting blood; or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
• pink or brown urine; red or black stools (looks like tar)
• unexpected pain, swelling, or joint pain
• headaches and feeling dizzy or weak
Spinal or epidural blood clots (hematoma). People who take PRADAXA and have medicine injected into their spinal and epidural area, or have a spinal puncture have a risk of forming a blood clot that can cause long-term or permanent loss of the ability to move (paralysis). Your risk of developing a spinal or epidural blood clot is higher if:
• a thin tube called an epidural catheter is placed in your back to give you certain medicine
• you take NSAIDs or a medicine to prevent blood from clotting
• you have a history of difficult or repeated epidural or spinal punctures
• you have a history of problems with your spine or have had surgery on your spine.
If you take PRADAXA and receive spinal anesthesia or have a spinal puncture, your doctor should watch you closely for symptoms of spinal or epidural blood clots. Tell your doctor right away if you have back pain, tingling, numbness, muscle weakness (especially in your legs and feet), loss of control of the bowels or bladder (incontinence).
Take PRADAXA exactly as prescribed. It is important to tell your doctors about all medicines (prescription and over-the-counter), vitamins, and supplements you take. Some medicines may affect the way PRADAXA works.
Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if PRADAXA will harm your unborn baby. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant during treatment with PRADAXA.
Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if PRADAXA passes into your breast milk. You and your doctor should decide if you will take PRADAXA or breastfeed.
PRADAXA can cause indigestion, stomach upset or burning, and stomach pain.
You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see full Prescribing Information and Medication Guide.